

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-2452

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Gallatin Sporting Clays
P.O. Box 3483
Bozeman, MT 59773

2. Type of Proposed Action: This proposal is divided into two elements:

- (1). Purchase and installation of 2 Five Stand shooting ranges.
- (2). Acquisition and installation of secure storage building.

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action: Range improvements will occur on site of existing 13 year old range located on 233 acres located in Gallatin County approximately 3 miles north of Logan, Montana. The range is on the South ½ of section 12 in Township 2 North, Range 2 East, P.M.M., according to the official plat on file and of record in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder, Gallatin County, Montana. (See figure 1).

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices)

5. Need for the Action(s): There are no 5-stand ranges in Gallatin County and preliminary indications are that there is a demand for 5-stand shooting opportunities. The nearest 5-stand ranges are 160 miles east in Billings, and 80 miles northwest in Helena. Additional 5-stand opportunities, will increase club usage, improve financial viability, and enable the club's

ability to service land purchase debt. Currently equipment and targets are not adequately protected from weather, theft and vandalism. Consequently, additional storage buildings are necessary to protect these assets. Anticipated range usage will be approximately 1000-3000 shooters/year.

6. Objectives for the Action(s):

The objective is to provide increased opportunity to participate in safe organized and efficient operation with increased shooting opportunities. This will ultimately result in better training or educational environment for the club, other user organizations, law enforcement, hunter education, and any other additional public uses.

7. Map:

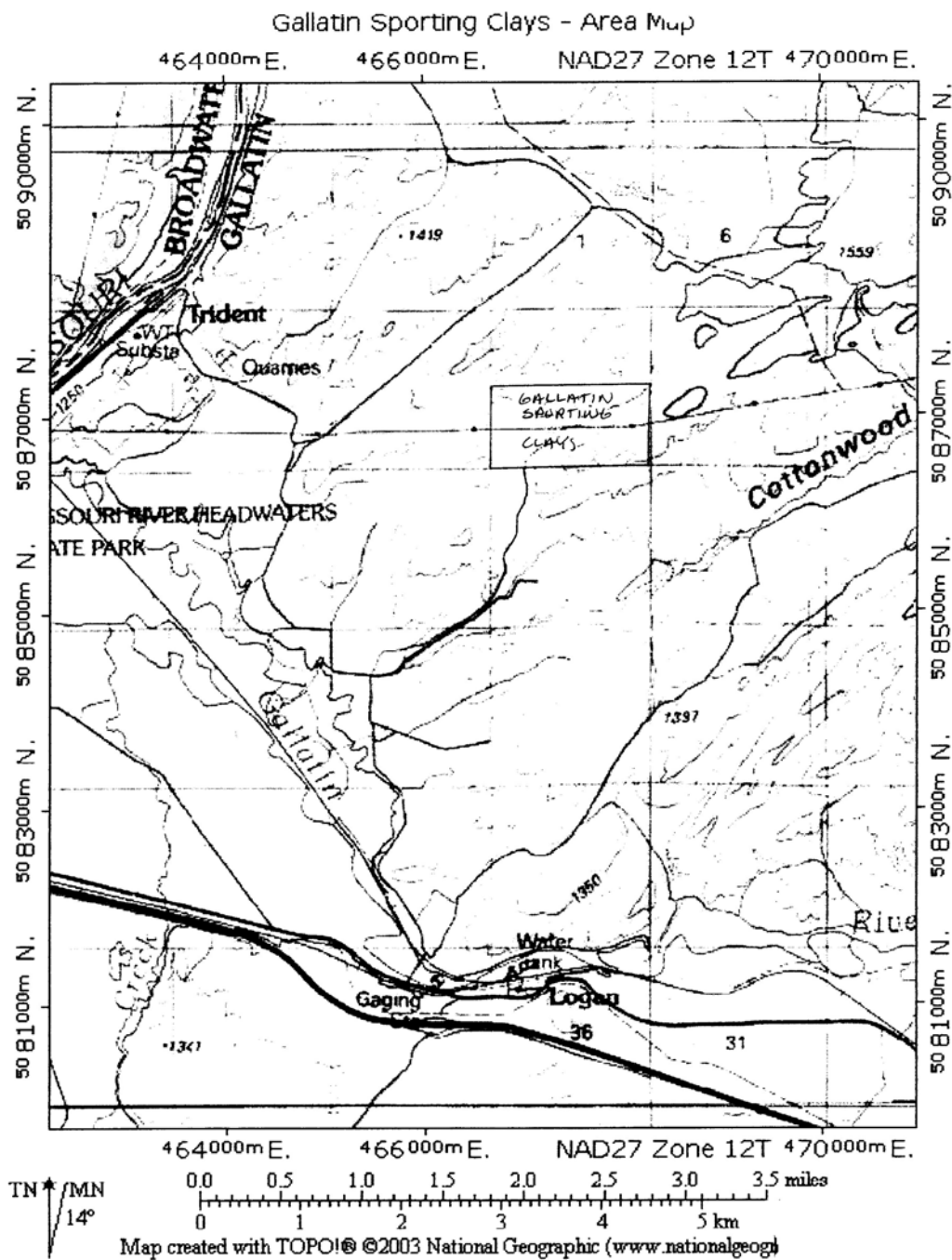


Figure 1 - Gallatin Sporting Clays Area Map

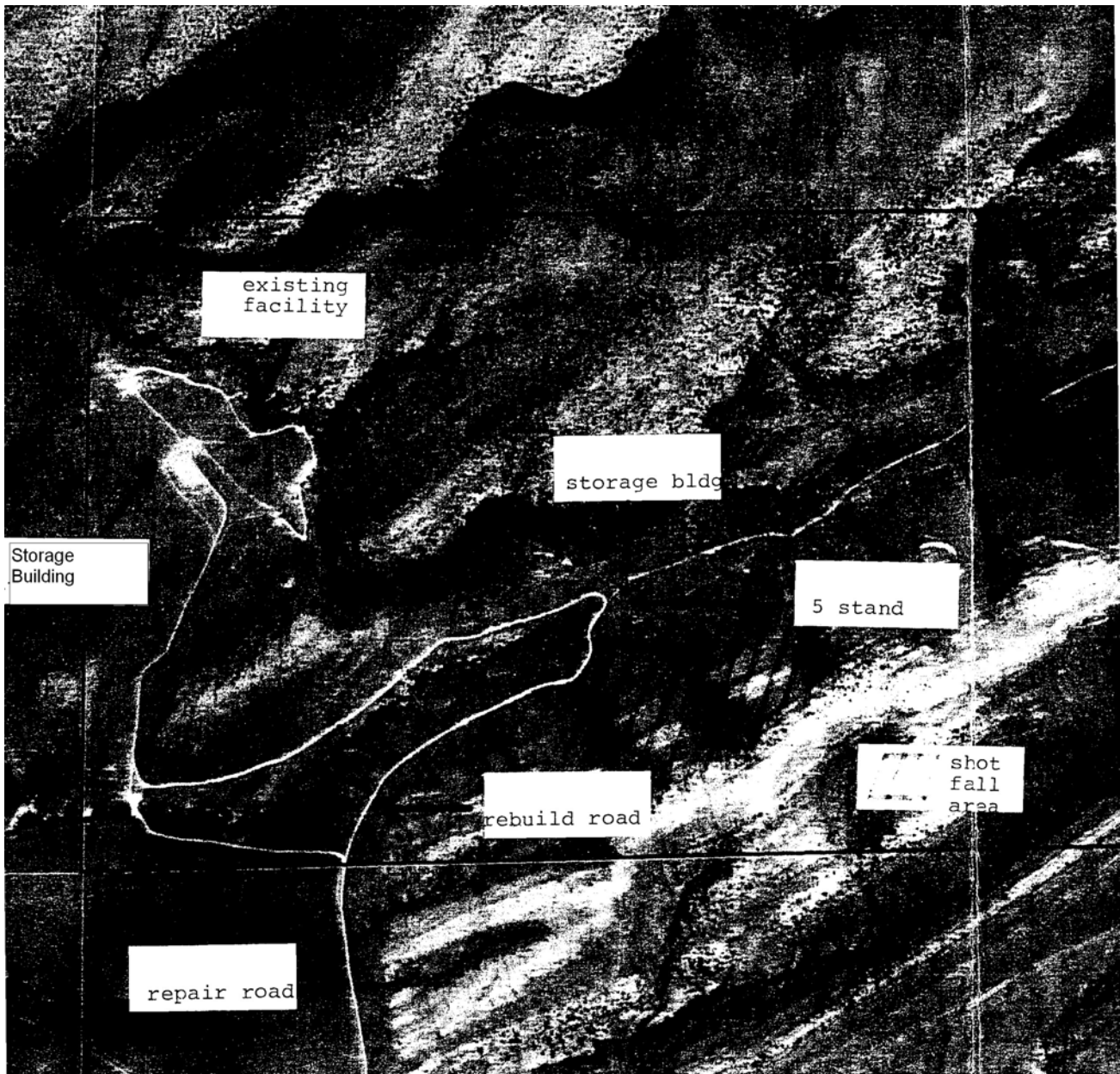
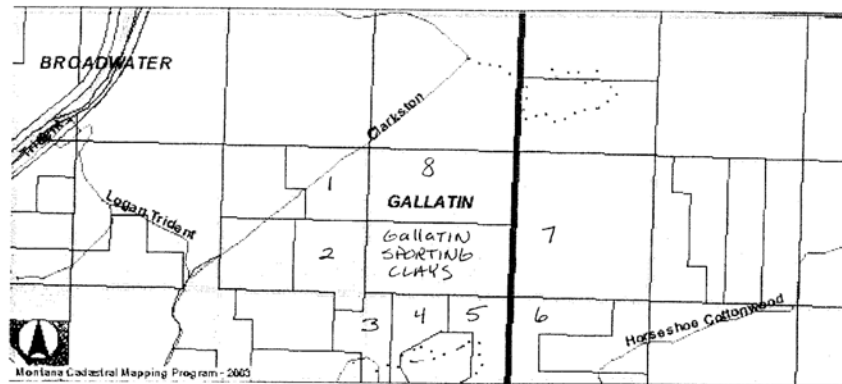


Figure 2 - Gallatin Sporting Clays areas of proposed improvements.

GALLATIN SPORTING CLAYS SURROUNDING LAND OWNERSHIP & USE



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ① | <p>Tract 2, COS 1977
 Kevin R. Perry
 P.O. Box 7437
 Jackson, WY 83002</p> | Use: Agricultural |
| ② | <p>Tract 4, COS 1977
 Jeffrey and Arin StCyr
 601 Little Coulee Trail
 Three Forks, MT 59752-8624</p> | Use: Agricultural and Single Family Residence |
| ③ | <p>Tract 7, COS 1977
 Douglas and Julie Fisher
 P.O. Box 4791
 Bozeman, MT 59772-4791</p> | Use: Agricultural and Single Family Residence |
| ④ | <p>Tract 8, COS 1977
 Joel and Julie Church
 132 Valley Grove Drive
 Bozeman, MT 59715</p> | Use: Agricultural |
| ⑤ | <p>Tract 9, COS 1977
 Kathryn Ann Schmidt
 511 W. Babcock St.
 Bozeman, MT 59715</p> | Use: Agricultural |
| ⑥ | <p>Sec. 7, T2N, R3E</p> | Use: Agricultural |
| ⑦ | <p>F Double D Horseshoe Hills, LLC
 8029 Frontage Road
 Manhattan, MT 59741</p> | |
| ⑧ | <p>N½ Sec. 12, T2N, R2E
 Bureau of Land Management</p> | Use: Agricultural |

Figure 2 - Gallatin Sporting Clays surrounding land ownership.

8. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

Range is approximately 233 acres, but improvements are limited to a much smaller area with proposed range enhancements (See figure 2).

9. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):

The area affected is the existing 13 year old Gallatin Sporting Clays on 233 acres approximately 3 miles north of Logan, MT and Interstate 90. Range is built upon former agricultural land and is surrounded by agricultural parcels (See figure 3).

10. Description of Project: In Accordance With (IAW) contracts agreements with Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and all projects are to be completed by June 30, 2009.

See paragraph 2 for outline of proposed actions.

(1). Purchase and install two 5-Stand shooting ranges and associate equipment, plus the range setup. Both 5-stand ranges have been located so shot fall zones do not intersect any improved areas. Both ranges are isolated, and oriented away from existing shooting areas.

(2). Acquire and installation a secure storage building which includes site prep and grading with gravel. The new building will be 1500 square feet, a concrete slab with loading dock, two roll-up doors, basic lighting and electric service, to be used for target and equipment storage.

11. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
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N/A

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$39,275

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups: In 2006 the Gallatin Sporting Clays hosted shoots for Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, National Rifle Association, Montana Contractors Association, Missouri Headwaters Gun Dog Club, Young Life, Gallatin County YMCA, and the Montana State University college of Business. The range has also hosted shooting education events for

women, 4-H and Boy Scouts. Gallatin Sporting Clays also provides additional public shooting opportunities by making its facilities available to the public and hosting at least two National Sporting Clays Association registered shoot per year. The range also operates the Gallatin Sporting Clays Youth Initiative, which includes free targets, free ammunition, and free safety clinics and shooting instruction. This program is open to the general public. The range has also been made available for 3D archery shoots and is available for hunter education and law enforcement usage.

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement: Proposed range improvements and safety enhancements had been discussed within the membership of the club and with the associated project vendors and contractors. No public involvement was deemed necessary.

14. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

15. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Russ McElyea
120 Cook Court
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 586-5098
rmcelyea@moonlightbasin.com

16. Other Pertinent Information:

Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range funding assistance. Resolution Date: April 25, 2007

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist - The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas)

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		#2
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		#5
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2. & 5. There are no live streams or ponds on the site and no delineated wetlands.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		#4
5. Human health				X		#5
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		#7
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

4. The site is adjacent to surrounding agricultural land.

5. Range site plans, construction and the ongoing operational and maintenance plans meet the standards of safety for the range participants and the public at large. Access is to the site controlled via perimeter fence and locked gate. The gate consists of steel panels anchored to buried posts. Shot fall areas within the property are further controlled via usage of swing restrictors, designated shooting cages, and additional barricades or interior fencing where appropriate. The gate is only unlocked during normal hours of operation, and a sign at the entrance identifies the operation as a shooting range. There is

a range marshal present at all times during range operation to monitor safety, and to handle usage fees, target stocking, and maintenance.

7. Range will provide year round controlled access and fulfils a need for a range to accommodate law enforcement training, hunter education, and public shooting.

Part III. Environmental Consequences

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:

The proposed alternative A, alternative B and the no action alternative were considered.

- **Alternative A** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project) installing two 5-stand shooting ranges and a storage building.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** area will remain as an active sporting clays range.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Two alternatives have been considered, A (Proposed Alternative) and B (No Action Alternative). There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent.

Neither the proposed alternative (A) nor the no action alternative (B) would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of alternatives **A** to provide an improved safety environment for 5-stand shotgun shooting and safe secure storage for range targets and equipment. Additionally the range is available to the general public, community organizations, law enforcement, shotgun training, and hunter education.

- The No Action Alternative would be not to add the 5-stand ranges or storage building, and to continue on with present shooting activities. Land use would remain the same. Present activities include sporting clays range without the proposed improvements or safe and secure storage. Therefore the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

NONE

List and explain proposed mitigative measures (stipulations):

NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Russ McElyea, Gallatin Sporting Clays, Bozeman, MT

PART IV NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being proposed are on properties owned by Gallatin Sporting Clays. The low impact activities proposed and the increased recreational opportunity indicates that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative (A). The 13 year history of Gallatin Sporting Clays providing shooting opportunities to its members and the public indicates support for the proposed alternative. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) for the addition of two 5-stand ranges and safe secure storage building.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN
Ecological Assessments
Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: July 5, 2007

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required.

Describe public involvement, if any: None